

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13975 231552Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 STR-04
TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 IO-13 /102 W
-----018657 232119Z /64

R 231425Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8626
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG UR
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN - SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL

REF: CAIRO 5404

1. CAIRO AL-AHRAM AUGUST 23 CARRIES FRONT PAGE REPORT THAT 1978 RPT 1978 EGYPTIAN-SOVIET TRADE PROTOCOL WAS DISCUSSED RECENTLY DURING GIVE -DAY VISIT TO MOSCOW BY AHMED AL-MANTAWI, DIRECTOR, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES DEPARTMENT, GOE MINTRADE AND SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA AND NEAR/FAR EAST. (IDENTIFIED AS KISSILEIEV). ACCORDING TO AL-AHRAM, DELEGATION LED BY AN EGYPTIAN MINTRADE UNDERSECRETARY IS SCHEDULED TO GO TO MOSCOW IN LATE NOVEMBER FOR DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS ON 1978 TRADE PROTOCOL.

2. PRESS COVERAGE OF MANTWI VISIT INDICATES VALUE OF 1977 TRADE BETWEEN EGYPT AND USSR REMAINS AS AGREED AT 400 MILLION POUNDS STERLING. EGYPTIAN SIDE HAS EXPORTED 40 PERCENT OF COMMODITIES AGREED, WHILE SOVIET UNION HAS SHIPPED TO EGYPT 37 PERCENT OF COMMODITIES AGREED TO UNDER 1977 PROTOCOL.
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REPORT INCLUDES FORECAST OF INCREASE (FROM 600,000 TONS OF 700,000 TONS) IN 1978 TRADE PROTOCOL QUOTA FOR SOVIET COKING COAL EXPORTS TO EGYPT. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN TRADE SURPLUS WITH SOVIET UNION WILL AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY 70 MILLION POUNDS STERLING FOR 1977. QUESTION OF COTTON EXPORTS IS NOT MENTIONED IN AHRAM ARTICLE.

3. COMMENT: MINTRADE OFFICIAL TELLS US THAT AL-MANTAWI DEPARTED FOR VISIT TO MOSCOW AND WARSAW ON AUGUST 14, SAME DAY PRESIDENT SADAT ANNOUNCED COTTON EMBARGO, FOR ROUTINE REVIEW OF PROGRESS UNDER TRADE PROTOCOLS. MOSCOW WAS FIRST STOP, WHERE HE MUST HAVE HAD AN INTERESTING SET OF TALKS. AL-MANTAWI IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO CAIRO FROM WARSAW ON AUGUST 25. STRAIGHTFORWARD PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT ALMOST SURELY REFLECTS CONCERN OVER EFFECT ON 1978 PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS OF DECISION TO HALT COTTON EXPORTS. WE PLAN TO TALK TO AL-MANTAWI ON HIS RETURN.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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